

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Animal Services	(2) MEETING DATE 2/23/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Eric Anderson, Program Manager, 781-4400	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2015-16 through FY 2017-18 renewal contract with Woods Humane Society, in the estimated amount of \$113,000 annually, for the spaying and neutering of animals at the San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2015-16 through FY 2017-18 renewal contract, in the estimated amount of \$113,000 annually, with Woods Humane Society to provide spay and neuter services for animals housed at the San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Animal Adoption Fees and General Fund support	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$113,000.00 (estimated)	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$113,000.00 (estimated)	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { X } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001617		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: <u>12-8-2009</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Animal Services / Eric Anderson, Program Manager, 781-4400

DATE: 2/23/2016

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2015-16 through FY 2017-18 renewal contract, in the estimated amount of \$113,000 annually, with Woods Humane Society for the spaying and neutering of animals at the San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2015-16 through FY 2017-18 renewal contract, in the estimated amount of \$113,000 annually, with Woods Humane Society to provide spay and neuter services for animals housed at the San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter.

DISCUSSION

Since the implementation of the Hayden Bill in 1998, all animal shelters, public or private, must ensure that all dogs and cats adopted out have been spayed or neutered. An exemption allowing the payment of a "spay-neuter deposit" may be made for those animals deemed by a veterinarian to be unable to undergo a surgical procedure by reason of a medical condition. The objective of this provision is to decrease the number of un-owned, homeless animals finding their way into shelters around the state. Such overpopulation leads to overcrowding and contributes to poor socialization and/or aggression, and are the root causes of euthanasia in shelter settings.

Locally, thousands of dogs and cats are adopted from the County Animal Services shelter each year, a large percentage of which are not spayed or neutered (unaltered) at the time of intake to the shelter. State law mandates that all cats and dogs be spayed or neutered prior to adoption release. The submitted contract renewal for the provision of low cost alterations with Woods eliminates a number of related logistical and practical problems which existed prior to the current arrangement. Some of these problems are listed below:

1. Total cost of adoption – Prior to the establishment of a spay/neuter agreement with Woods, the cost of these alterations served as a deterrent to adoption. While the County adoption fees did not generally pose a challenge to those wishing to provide a new home to a pet, having to pay a few hundred dollars - or more - to have a clinic or veterinarian perform the alteration surgery certainly did. The fee varied by veterinarian or clinic, but could exceed \$350, depending on the type, sex, and size of animal altered. This was particularly problematic for families with lower incomes. Those who could not afford alteration costs often sought to acquire animals from alternative sources, which did not require them to be spayed or neutered, thus further contributing to the potential for pet overpopulation issues. The current contract with Woods provides alteration services at a reduced rate which is reflected in lower overall adoption costs for the public.
2. Delays in releasing adopted animals – Prior to the agreement between the County and Woods, adopted animals remained in the kennel for several days pending available spay and neuter appointments at a local clinic. This resulted in increased kennel populations, promoted stress and disease, and increased the cost of care associated with each animal while decreasing available space for incoming animals.
3. Transportation challenges - Scheduling surgical appointments at the time of adoption and transporting of animals to veterinary clinics between Nipomo, Paso Robles and Cambria required a substantial amount of staff time. This led to increased labor costs and additional fuel and vehicle costs. Since the Woods facility is in close proximity to the County Animal Shelter and animals are spayed or neutered as they are made available for adoption, field staff are no longer required to transport animals around the county to veterinary clinics for these alterations.

4. Reduced patrol times - Transporting of animals occupied substantial amounts of officer time, taking away from available patrol time and made them unavailable for other duties, thereby delaying response times to calls for service.

The contract submitted for approval by your Board today is a renewal of the 2007 original and 2009 agreements under the same terms. The most recent contractual agreement concluded at the end of June 2015. Due to staffing turnovers and vacancies, however, the expiration of this agreement was not noted until the second quarter of FY 2015-16. During the interim, Woods continued to provide these services under the previously established terms. Approval of this contract will retroactively approve expenses to date. The contract will also allow Animal Services to continue this beneficial program through 2020 by way of 1-year contract extensions upon Health Agency Director approval as per Exhibit C.4 of the contract.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The proposed contract was developed by Animal Services staff in collaboration with Woods Humane Society. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract with regard to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The contract submitted for your approval provides for continuation of surgical spay and neuter services for dogs and cats at currently established costs. For FY 2015-16 this cost is estimated at \$113,000. This estimate is derived through review of the number and types of surgeries performed under the previous agreement in comparison to overall shelter population data (including the number of animal impounds, the number of dogs versus cats, and the number of male versus female animals). The costs associated with this renewal contract are recovered through Animal Services' adoption fees and through General Fund support that is already budgeted in FY 2015-16. This action does not affect the current level of General Fund support budgeted for these services.

RESULTS

Approval of this contract renewal will allow continued provision of spay and neuter services for dogs and cats at the County Animal Shelter with the following anticipated results:

- Continued compliance with state law through the assurance animals adopted from the shelter are spayed or neutered prior to going into their new home.
- Cost savings to animal adopters of as much as \$250 per adoption through the provision of low cost alternative for spay and neuter surgeries.
- Continuation of high adoption rates as a result of lower total costs to the adopter.
- Continued operational efficiency derived from eliminating the need for scheduling, holding, and transporting animals for surgical appointments around the county.

Continuation of this program will help Animal Services meet its objective of rehoming of stray animals and promoting responsible pet ownership throughout the community. This goal is in keeping with the County's desired community-wide result of a "Livable Community".

ATTACHMENTS

1. FY 2015-16 Renewal Contract with Woods Humane Society